AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 44. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1921. WHOLE NO., 512.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

MAN'S FIRST INSTINCT : : IGNORED BY HIGH COURT

The instinct of self-preservation was ignored by the United States Supreme court in the Duplex-Machinists' case.

The court held that a boycott by New York machinists against this Michigan concern is a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, which penalizes interference with interstate commerce.

Behind this boycott is a strike that involved but a bare dozen machinists employed by Duplex. And behind the strike and boycott loom a notice by other printing press manufacturers that the Duplex must be put on the same eight-hour basis as they, must pay the same wage and agree to the same working conditions.

The Duplex refused this demand of their machinists, who struck. Other machinists refused to handle the Duplex press, and asked fellow trade unionists to aid them. These machinists were as involved in the Duplex strike as the Duplex machinists, for if the latter failed the others were warned by their employers that the Duplex would be put on the same competitive basis. This was notice that if Duplex were permitted to operate under the 10-hour, low-wage system, they would do likewise.

It was under these conditions that the Duplex complained to the United States supreme court that New York machinists were interfering with interstate commerce.

And the court made the astounding decision that the New York machinists were not directly involved in the strike and that their "conspiracy" should be enjoined.

The court ignored the old maxims: "He who seeks equity must act in equity," and "He who seeks equity must come into court with clean hands."

Duplex did not "come into court with clean hands." It was attempting to debase conditions of its employes and force its competitors to adopt the same policy.

And the court gives notice to other machinists that if they do not find in breaking the Duplex strike and listen upon themselves the 10-hour day, they are in contempt of court.

The court's decision is commercialism rampant and has brought howls of glee from every reactionary in the land.

This decision is in line with the court's refusal, last March, to dissolve the steel trust. This case the minority opinion declared that the trust was formed "in plain violation and bold defiance" of the Sherman anti-trust law.

But the majority of the court refused to dissolve this trust because it may be a serious detriment to the foreign trade."

NEW OUT-OF-WORK REMEDY.

London, England, Jan. 22.—The government's latest solution for the unemployed problem is to give employes work part time. Workers employed in an remedy of short time is now the rule and the number bordering on starvation will be increased.

Other trade unionists declare that only government aid has kept the first step towards an attempt to reduce wages and that it will solve nothing to share the poverty and misery among workers partly employed with those who are totally unemployed.

The plan is denounced as a scheme to shift to the workers the unemployment problem, while the government and employers and other taxpayers would escape responsibility.

Trade unionists call attention to the hysterical plan for unemployment relief action made last year by statesmen and editors, who now urge workers to divide their short time so that more may have to work.

Tom Mann, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering union takes this comment on the government's new proposal to "share work" in favor of dividing work provided it is done on a basis of the full living wage. Of course, the government does not propose this and for the part I have nothing to do with the scheme."

The government has also notified the building trades that it will give three unions 4% for every ex-service man out of work admitted to membership. The unions are asking how, as well as the unemployment for them, and while the officers of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives have submitted the plan to affiliates, it is referred to as bribe money.

WATCH INCOME TAX.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Every single person whose net income was in excess during 1920 of $1,000 is required to file a return, under oath, to the collector of internal revenue for his district on or before March 15 next. The same is true of married persons having a net income of $2,000 or more. A failure to make the return may be punished by a fine of not more than $1,000 and an additional assessment of 25 per cent of the amount of tax due.

A married person is entitled to an exemption of $2000 for each child. The tax rate is 4 per cent. Information may be secured from the collector of internal revenue.

MEXICAN'S TART REPLY.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 22.—Business men in this city were handed a tart reply by the secretary of President Obregon of Mexico, in answer to their plea that the Mexican government do not interfere with gambling in the Lower California resort.

The business men said that "the success of San Diego requires the place as a true center of diversion."

In declining the request the Mexican official said that gambling is a constant gambling in their own city, and in addition is a necessary and practical for you, you would avoid a long trip for the purpose of seeking diversion."

PALMER IS BLAMED.

New York, Jan. 22.—"Almost every avenue of industry in this country is clogged and gutted and the federal department of justice is responsible," said Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the state commission that is probing the housing situation, in a speech in which he declared that accounted efforts now being made by financial interests to block a probe of their affairs.

"ROB" IS CORRECT WORD.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Congressman Blanton, of Texas, made this significant statement when endeavoring to include the $1,000,000 bonus in the salary appropriation bill for District of Columbia employes.

"After we rob them of their strike privileges we take advantage of them in the bill by discriminating against them."

BAKERS SHORT WEIGHT.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—Bakers are threatened with prosecution by Fair Price Commissioner McClain unless they "show a disposition to quit shortweighting the public."

The official said bread should be based on present cost, and if bakers failed to include the increase they would have no ample power to prosecute. Bakers are selling 16 ounce loaves for 10 cents.

IS GOOD INVESTMENT.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 22. — The company union, known as the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, is proving a good investment for the northwest lumber men who have financed this scheme. At a meeting in this city the board of directors of the company union met behind closed doors from a $5.20 minimum to $2.60 a day, or $15.20 a week. The board consists of 12 employers and 12 workers.

Lumber workers along the Pacific coast are awakening to pending plans that started when the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen was organized during the war. At that time trade unionists made the strategical mistake of not opening a campaign against the "loyals." The unionists allowed the legion to become entrenched, and it posed as patriotism. Now it is being used to lower their conditions.

Organized labor regards wages of members of the International Union of Timber Workers as the key. Recently mill owners claimed they were operating at a loss. The union showed that the cost of logs totaled 21 cents for every 1,000 feet of lumber. Other items made the cost during April the mill owners operated at a profit of from $2,000 to $5,000 a day. Mill owners refused to discuss subject like a hot potato and newspaper editors who "view with alarm" they laud company "unions" and assure the public that living costs are down to pre-war levels and wages must also be reduced.

EMPLOYERS NOT PROMPT.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Self-insured employers, whom one would expect to pay promptly, are no more prompt in this respect than either state funds or private carriers, says Carl Hookstadt, writing in the Monthly Labor Review (bureau of labor statistics) on workmen's compensation and social insurance.

It is stated that thus far no injured workman has failed to receive compensation because of the insolvency of a state insurance fund, and that the collector of internal revenue has any large mutual company become insolvent, but there have been numerous instances of the failure of private stock companies, with hundreds of thousands of dollars of unpaid claims, during the last three or four years.

The writer estimates a saving of $20,000,000 annually to employers of the United States if all were brought in exclusive state funds. The average cost of insurance of stock companies is approximately 2½ per cent, of mutual companies, about 20 per cent, and of exclusive state funds, from 5 to 7½ per cent. This average expense of 20 per cent, he states, indicates the cost of compensation insurance to employers under the varying systems.

RAILROADS EVADE LAW.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 22.—Officials of the Minnesota state federation of labor report that railroad officials are evading the Cummins-Esch law by having work done in contract shops under non-union conditions. It is said that large freight cars have been erected and much regular railroad work is being done.

This statement is similar to charges made by railroad employes elsewhere that railroads are not interested in these plants, charge any undue profit to state funds, but that they have the government foot the bill through its guarantee of a per cent dividend.

TO PROBE COAL PRICES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 22.—The coal industry in Pennsylvania and other state legislature passes a resolution introduced by Representative Wilson, of Philadelphia, for the coal maker says his city is paying $15 a ton for coal that costs $3.50 a mine. After the probers secure the necessary information this will be referred to the legislature "for action."

PACKERS USE WORKERS.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—Packing interests in this city are forcing employes to sign petitions to present to congress against the passage of legislation that would regulate this industry, according to labor. The stock yards denounce this coercion and have notified members of congress.

ANTIS ARE DEFEATED.

Lamar, Col., Jan. 22.—The building trades' strike that has been waged at this place for several months has been settled. The open shop concessions are restored, to the workers' demands.

Give Mexico the Chance for Peaceful Progress

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Information in the possession of officers of the A. F. of L. indicates very clearly that, however peaceful conditions may be within the borders of Mexico, plotting on this side of the line for interference in Mexican internal affairs has not come to an end.

During the last 10 years of Mexican history one revolutionary movement after another has had its inception in the United States. At various times the movers and agents in these movements have centered their operations on the border, in San Diego and Los Angeles and also in New York city.

When there was no opportunity for the people of Mexico to find redress for wrongs through the methods of peace within their own country, the liberty-loving people of the United States looked with sympathy upon such steps as could properly be taken within the borders of this country looking toward the late warring of relief for the Mexican people.

In addition to this, many a revolutionary venture and many a rapacious plot, which had for its object no service to the common good, has been hatched on American soil.

Today there is a new situation in Mexico. A government is in power by virtue of the will of the people freely expressed at the polls. The president-elect came into office peacefully in thorough accord with constitutional methods, a record which has occurred only about four times in Mexican history. There is, of course, no guarantee that a coup d'etat will bring forth in Mexico, but we have a right to have faith that the people of this country will uphold the promise made by the recent election. We have a right to believe and to act in accordance with the belief that Mexico is to remain a nation not only democratic in ideals, but democratic in practice.

For the present the facts are that a government is in power as the result of a free election and that this government is unusually responsive to the will of the people.

The Mexican people and the Mexican government today have a right to look upon conspiracy in the United States against the Mexican government exactly as the people and government of the United States would look upon similar conspiracy in Mexico against the government of the United States.

Whether these plots be the work of adherents of the former Carranza government, whether they be the plots of any other faction in Mexican political life, they have no right to expect the hospitality of American soil and they have no right to expect the tolerance of the American people.

Nearly all of these attempts to foment revolution in Mexico have had their origin and purpose, not in accord with the will of any large or important group of the people of Mexico, but with that of adventurous American exploiters whose purpose is the filching of the wealth of that country, now enjoying peace and tranquility with the opportunities for self-expression and orderly development.

All exposure for political power in Mexico have had the opportunity at the polls to strive peacefully and democratically for supremacy. The people of the United States must assume that another free and democratic opportunity for a test of political strength will be afforded four years hence, in accordance with the Mexican constitution. It is wholly improper that opportunity for revolutionary plotting should be found in the United States for rebellious Mexican factions that are not willing to accept that assumption.

OPPOSE DEPORTATIONS.

New York, Jan. 22.—Criticism of the methods used in raiding alien country of persons supposed to be undesirable is made by the committee on church and social service of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Facts for the report were gathered by the Rev. C. M. Pannuzio, who began his study in 1919 when he went to Europe as a steerage passenger to learn the reason why scores of foreign-born were returning to their native lands. Many told him they were being persecuted. Of Americans in general Mr. Pannuzio says he was told: "They don't want foreigners," and "This America of men's dreams is vanishing."

Returning to America the clergyman mentions instances of warrants for deportation in detention camps in Ellis Island, especially those in groups while attending meetings in public halls and were forced to sign statements which were later used as evidence against them, the report says. Only a small number could be classed as dangerous radicals. Most of them asked not to be deported and were thankfully glad while by the laws.

The report says that, with respect to what are known as political offenses, no act or utterance, however violent, would have to amount to a solicitation or an attempt to overthrow the government by force before it is sufficient ground for deportation. To deport a person for his ideas, says the report, should be declared to be not only illiberal, but a fatal blow to intellectual and intellectual development.

The report condemns the governmental methods as illegitimate and acts for the purpose of trapping the perpetrators.

ANTIS ARE WARNED.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—The Public Ledger warns employers that their anti-union activities are playing into them to disaster. The editor declares that the open shop drive of the anti-union shop preferred to by him as the open shop movement, "is not," but, he says, it is impossible to ignore the fact that this is "a measure of class crime, which would oppose the destruction of the industry of this country by the organization of the conditions governing wages and the conditions of labor."

With the same breath he appeals to anti-union employers, the editor says:

"It requires no deep insight to foresee the inevitable consequence of an attempt to destroy the power of employers, or the inauguration of an open war on labor. Labor is peculiarly organized labor. The time has long passed for such a policy, but if it should be adopted by any concerted action on the part of the manufacturers the conservative among the union leaders will be driven into the ranks of the radicals and the unions will be converted into a revolutionary and anti-social movement. That is not imaginary.

"In this stage of industrial and social progress it is an anachronism to imagine that the spirit of organization of labor can ever again be stifled by force, and those who think that is their purpose should think twice before taking an irrevocable step looking to a conflict to the bitter end."

MINING IS DANGEROUS.

Washington, Jan. 22.—In 1907, one out of every 142 persons employed in the coal mines of this country 414 were killed by accidents, says the U. S. geological survey in one of its latest pamphlet on fires and prevention of accidents in coal mines.

The total number killed in 1907 was 2,242, of whom 954 were killed by gas or coal explosions. In 1911 the number killed per 1,000 employed was 3.33. The total number killed in that year was 2,580, of whom 129 were killed by gas or dust explosions.

COSSACKS ARE URGED.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 22.—A cossack bill has been introduced in the Ohio legislature. The bill was defeated at the last legislature, but since that time the advocates have been developing a friendly sentiment among various elements. Farmers are told it is needed to end petty thieves; automobile owners, the stealing of autos and the stealing of autos and church folks are promised protection against the morals of the rural communities.

WIN FREE SPEECH FIGHT.

Garfield, N. J., Jan. 22.—Employers have been defeated in their attempt to stop the International Labor Defense Workers' organizers from holding mass meetings in this place. There are about 1,000 workers employed in the industry and wages are lions lower than in any other place in the country. This accounts for the employers' action.

WOULD HANDCUFF WORKERS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 22.—Senator Cole has introduced a handcuff law in the state legislature. The bill is similar to that in Kansas "can't-strike" plan. Governor Robertson has publicly denounced the anti-strike measure, but this does not deter Leedy from posing as a "statesman."

HEADS SCHOOL BOARD.

San Francisco, Jan. 22.—Denis T. Mulligan, president of the state federation of labor, has been elected president of the board of education of this city and county.

Incorporation Is To Escape Liability

Chicago, Jan. 22.—The incorporation of trade unions is riddled by Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois state federation of labor in the official paper of that organization.

"The scheme of incorporation," writes this trade unionist, "was originated and is being practiced for one purpose only—that of limiting liability. The excuse is that unless prospective members can be protected against liability beyond that which attaches to any other business they will not care to risk their money. The state, therefore, acting under political pressure of money power, proceeded to enact laws limiting the liability of investors so that a man of wealth could safely take a chance in almost any nefarious scheme under the cover of incorporation without involving himself in any further risk than the amount he had contributed to the enterprise in the shape of payment for stock, etc.

"Incorporation invariably provided for limitation of liability. The whole theory is that of limited liability. The courts have also pointed out that the limitation of liability is not confined to incorporated companies, but has been extended itself in many directions and is probably responsible for more suffering, more injury and death, more cheating and swindling, than any other single scheme ever invented by mankind, in practice at the present time.

"Property is a proper subject of contract. It may be owned by an incorporated business organization or by a partnership or by an individual. If any reasonable means can be devised whereby the workers may be given a greater share in the profits of the industries and participation in their management, without the writing into the law some alleged profit sharing scheme which is to have relation to the time of service of the workers, the contractual relations between them and the corporation and this will probably affect their right to quit work, by the way, is more essential to human freedom than any other single right that can be named. It is the right that marks the difference between the workers the free man and the slave."

WINDY BLANTON RAPPED.

Washington, Jan. 22.—On the floor of the house of representatives Congressman Knutson registered his protest "against cluttering up the Congressional Record with this damned foolishness" of Congressman Blanton.

Congressman Knutson referred to the numerous pleas for economy by the Texas statesman, and declared that his loyalty talk appears to be a sort of "mouth wash."

"I referred said Congressman Knutson, "how many times the gentleman has stood on his feet and took the time of the house, in the first and second sessions of the Sixty-sixth congress, to talk for hours and hours, and sometimes for days and days, and then he would not take the time to read the bills that he introduced. He spoke on almost every occasion when the house took exception to almost every proposition to appropriate money—always for the purpose of advertising himself and proclaiming to the world that he and the democratic members was the only honest man on the floor of the house.

"In the remarks printed in this morning's Record, to which I have referred, he says that he was in his late campaign he was opposed by organized labor; in fact, the effort reached all over the country. I would conclude from reading the gentleman's remarks that the people were more concerned about defeating the gentleman from Texas for re-election than they were about winning the late war in which we were engaged. I am in favor of economy, but I am in favor of practicing it rather than talking about it."

WANT GATES SHUT.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—"Shut the gates," says the Chicago Tribune in an editorial on the need for stopping immigration.

"We do not require a labor survey," says this paper, "to show that unemployment is one of the most serious problems in the American economic situation. It is only one element in the general unemployment in the world, but it is sufficiently important.

"It is inconsequential to the opposition that unrestricted immigration may result in the admission of many European disasters without contributing anything to the cause of humanity. The interests of American nationality, of the American political system and of American industries demand a relief from overcrowding.

"We have reached the point of saturation and we cannot take care of aliens driven here in a panic."

OBJECT TO PETTY GRAFT.

New York, Jan. 22.—The national association of manufacturers objects to the activities of those performing anti-union shop organiza tions. They refer to the "grafters" and "petty thieves" automobile owners, the stealing of autos and the stealing of autos and church folks are promised protection against the morals of the rural communities.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Jan. 22.—A long list of gains secured by affiliates of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union is printed in the current issue of American Pressmen, official magazine of that organization. The advances, in many cases are $4, $9 and $13 a week.

COMPERS RE-ELECTED.

Mexico City, Jan. 21.—Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., was re-elected president of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, at the convention of that organization held in this city. The next session will be held in Washington, D. C.

WINDY BLANTON RAPPED.

Washington, Jan. 22.—On the floor of the house of representatives Congressman Knutson registered his protest "against cluttering up the Congressional Record with this damned foolishness" of Congressman Blanton.

Congressman Knutson referred to the numerous pleas for economy by the Texas statesman, and declared that his loyalty talk appears to be a sort of "mouth wash."

"I referred said Congressman Knutson, "how many times the gentleman has stood on his feet and took the time of the house, in the first and second sessions of the Sixty-sixth congress, to talk for hours and hours, and sometimes for days and days, and then he would not take the time to read the bills that he introduced. He spoke on almost every occasion when the house took exception to almost every proposition to appropriate money—always for the purpose of advertising himself and proclaiming to the world that he and the democratic members was the only honest man on the floor of the house.

"In the remarks printed in this morning's Record, to which I have referred, he says that he was in his late campaign he was opposed by organized labor; in fact, the effort reached all over the country. I would conclude from reading the gentleman's remarks that the people were more concerned about defeating the gentleman from Texas for re-election than they were about winning the late war in which we were engaged. I am in favor of economy, but I am in favor of practicing it rather than talking about it."

WANT GATES SHUT.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—"Shut the gates," says the Chicago Tribune in an editorial on the need for stopping immigration.

"We do not require a labor survey," says this paper, "to show that unemployment is one of the most serious problems in the American economic situation. It is only one element in the general unemployment in the world, but it is sufficiently important.

"It is inconsequential to the opposition that unrestricted immigration may result in the admission of many European disasters without contributing anything to the cause of humanity. The interests of American nationality, of the American political system and of American industries demand a relief from overcrowding.

"We have reached the point of saturation and we cannot take care of aliens driven here in a panic."

OBJECT TO PETTY GRAFT.

New York, Jan. 22.—The national association of manufacturers objects to the activities of those performing anti-union shop organiza tions. They refer to the "grafters" and "petty thieves" automobile owners, the stealing of autos and the stealing of autos and church folks are promised protection against the morals of the rural communities.

WIN FREE SPEECH FIGHT.

Garfield, N. J., Jan. 22.—Employers have been defeated in their attempt to stop the International Labor Defense Workers' organizers from holding mass meetings in this place. There are about 1,000 workers employed in the industry and wages are lions lower than in any other place in the country. This accounts for the employers' action.

WOULD HANDCUFF WORKERS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 22.—Senator Cole has introduced a handcuff law in the state legislature. The bill is similar to that in Kansas "can't-strike" plan. Governor Robertson has publicly denounced the anti-strike measure, but this does not deter Leedy from posing as a "statesman."

HEADS SCHOOL BOARD.

San Francisco, Jan. 22.—Denis T. Mulligan, president of the state federation of labor, has been elected president of the board of education of this city and county.

ATTACKS ON TRADE UNIONISM TO BE CONSIDERED BY LABOR

Washington, Jan. 22.—Under instruction of the executive council, President Gompers has issued a call for a conference of representatives of the 109 national and international affiliates of the A. F. of L., to be held in this city, Wednesday, February 23, to consider publicity and other methods to meet the opposition of anti-unionists.

The call is the result of action by the executive council at its last meeting, when President Gompers was authorized to confer on this subject with trade union leaders and others in sympathy with the trade union movement. On December 29 President Gompers discussed the question with a score of men, and one of the recommendations included a conference that President Gompers, with the approval of the executive council, now calls.

The purpose of the conference, says President Gompers, will be "to consider generally the movement to undermine and destroy the efforts of the workers through the campaign for the establishment of the open-shop, the open-union, unwarrantably to reduce wages and to close entirely many large industrial establishments, and as a specific order of business to consider methods of publicity designed to meet the needs of the time, as well as the means whereby such plans as may be thought wisest may be put into operation.

"The time is crucial." An unreasoned and unreasonable attack is being made upon the trade union movement. The welfare of the men and women of labor and the welfare of the country are at stake. The battle must be fought by the organized workers and the best brains in our movement must devise the methods and policies to be followed."

Since the formation of the A. F. of L. in 1881, there have been many conferences of this character called because of unwarranted encroachments or political conditions confronting the workers.

Petty Reduction In Living Costs Magnified by Low Wage Employers

Washington, Jan. 22.—The wide-spread reduction in living costs averaged 6.7 per cent during the period June, 1920, to December, 1920, in 32 leading cities, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics.

The June, 1920, cost of living was the highest during the war, being 104.5 per cent over December, 1913.

This 6.7 per cent reduction is below that of every publicized drive at the command of cheap-wage employers to justify a wage decrease of 25, 30 or 50 per cent among the unorganized, despite the fact that not a single dollar a day after the war wages permitted workers to maintain living standards of 1913.

Decreases during the past six months, averaging 6.7 per cent, are as follows:

Baltimore, 8.2 per cent; Boston, 5.5 per cent; Buffalo, 8.8 per cent; Chicago, 6.1 per cent; Cleveland, 5.9 per cent; Fall River, 5.6 per cent; Norfolk, 5.9 per cent each; Detroit, 7.4 per cent; Houston, 7.1 per cent; Jacksonville and Memphis, 4.6 per cent each; Los Angeles, 6.4 per cent; Manchester, 6.3 per cent; Philadelphia, 8.4 per cent; Pittsburgh, 4.6 per cent each; New York, 8.1 per cent; Philadelphia, 6 per cent; Portland, Me., 5.6 per cent; Providence, 6.3 per cent; San Francisco and Atlanta, 5.6 per cent each; Savannah, 5.1 per cent; Scranton, 7.7 per cent; Washington, 6.7 per cent; Birmingham, 6.7 per cent; Milwaukee, 5.8 per cent; New Orleans, 2.7 per cent; Minneapolis, 5.4 per cent; Denver, 5.7 per cent; Indianapolis, 8.4 per cent; Kansas City, 7.3 per cent; Richmond, 5.8 per cent; Dallas, 3.1 per cent; Scranton, 8.2 per cent.

There is a significant fact behind interests and public utilities took no part in these small reductions. They are not instead, in every instance, substantial increases were made during the months in the cost of housing, fuel and light.

The bureau of labor statistics shows that the cost of living was in December, 1920, was 106.4 per cent above 1913. The meaning is that if wages are not twice those of pre-war times the conditions of workers are below 1913. This is the standard of securing better conditions and the standard of the employers may their standards are lower than before the war.

PASS NITRATE BILL.

Washington, Jan. 22.—By a vote of 34 to 29 the senate passed the bill creating a government corporation to manufacture in Alabama, Alabama, and other federal nitrate plants, according to the Muscle Shoals commission, which has investigated the question for a year.

In October, 1919, Federal Premier Hughes said: "If we are to have industrial peace we must be prepared to pay the price, and that price is justice to the workers; there is no other way."

The commission recommended an appropriation of $15,000,000 and now the premier rejects the award and says the basic wage will be $11 a week. Cereal food prices have reached the limit and there is no shortage of foodstuffs.

The collapse of a basic wage by state fiat has awakened the workers to the danger of relying upon themselves, rather than be subject to the whim of a politician.

AN AMERICAN SIBERIA.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 22.—At a mass meeting held in this city to discuss the strike of Alabama miners it was said that troops in the state have been forbidden assemblies to hold business meetings of their union or to be off their premises or out of their homes after 4 o'clock in the afternoon until the following morning. Miners who violate this order are arrested at the point of a bayonet. At Palos, Jefferson county, 1,000 of miners are not allowed to hold meetings of their fraternal organization and no miners are allowed under the surveillance of soldiers.

The meeting adopted resolutions calling on congress "to appoint a committee to investigate conditions in the mining district of Alabama, with a view of securing the facts and information to the end that the state their rights under the constitution of the United States."

The miners are striking to compel coal owners to abide by an agreement made with the central coal commission, appointed by the president following the ending of the nation-wide coal strike in the fall of 1919.

DISMISS INDICTMENTS.

Denver, Jan. 22.—The district attorney has dismissed indictments against President Ashstrom, president of the district of miners' union, and other trade unionists, who were charged with conspiracy to interfere with abetting riots in connection with last year's street car strike. It is charged that when the jury was hand-picked and that it acted under improper influence of certain coal company officials. No attempt was made to indict the coal company officers who are implicated by the company, and who were blamed by the unionists for the outbreaks who probed this strike with being responsible for the several murders at that time.

LYNCHERS ARRESTED.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 22.—The lynching of a union miner at Jasper, this state, by a mob of state guardsmen stationed in the miners' strike zone, has brought strong protest against military punishment of the members. The governor has directed the trial of the mob in the courts and General Steiner, commander of the state troops, has conducted to bow to the popular will.

SPIES START RIOT.

Akron, Ohio, Jan. 22.—The disclosure of spies in the employ of local trade union movement brings to light the interesting fact that spies were involved in the "booting strike." Trade unionists declare that the strike was started by the injunction judge to involve one of the leading rubber companies in the "booting strike."

TRY THE INJUNCTION.

New York, Jan. 22.—The national association of manufacturers has been involved in the "booting strike." Trade unionists declare that the strike was started by the injunction judge to involve one of the leading rubber companies in the "booting strike."

ELECTRICIANS UNITE.

Vinita, Okl., Jan. 22.—An affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has been organized in this city.

UNIONS STOP CUT.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Jan. 22.—Building trades unions in this city stopped a 15 per cent wage reduction by the contractors. The trade unionists notified the superintendent of building and grounds that no member of organized labor would be permitted to work under the cut in order. The superintendent modified the order as far as unionists were concerned, but it would only apply to the unorganized.

FRENCH WAR TOLL.

Paris, Jan. 22.—The director of public assistance states that the total population of France diminished 4,600,000 during the war. The official made a plea for expenditure to enable the government to preserved indispensable vital forces.